



## THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

**LUNG CANCER.** Seymour M. Farber, M.D., Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine, U. C. School of Medicine. Charles C. Thomas, publisher, Springfield, Ill., 1954. 157 pages, \$4.75.

There is no doubt that the problem of lung cancer is increasing, and that it is already at a point where it offers a challenge to the general practitioner. In an attempt to help him meet that challenge, Dr. Farber has prepared this monograph. It begins with a simple, lucid explanation of the current concepts of etiology and histopathology, and proceeds to an excellent discussion of the attitude with which the problem should be faced, and the essential features of diagnosis which should be employed by the physician in searching for possible lung cancer, which is symptomatic. Unfortunately, nothing is said about the techniques for discovering the so-called "silent" lesion which is either non-symptomatic or only vaguely so. It is true that later on in the monograph the author does speak of the possibility of using sputum examinations for malignant cells as a possible survey technique, but does *not* speak of the use of periodic x-rays for that purpose.

There is a very good section on the use of the fluoroscope and roentgenology in diagnosis, although one wonders from whence comes the author's enthusiasm for bronchography. Most diagnosticians find it only occasionally helpful in searching for a lung cancer and hesitate to use it because of the residual iodized oil which obscures further x-ray studies.

The section on cytological studies is, of course, excellent, since the author is an authority in that field. Also commendable is his advice to the physician concerning the care of the patient whose disease has progressed to a point where no therapy, either surgical or otherwise, can be used. Only the chapter on surgery is inadequate, and this inadequacy may be due to the "autopsy table" background of the author's material. This material consists of 1070 cases from 19 California hospitals, 61 per cent of whom were undiagnosed before autopsy. His surgical background appears to be limited to a review of 241 surgical cases, only 26 of whom were from private hospitals or physicians. The value of this monograph to the general practitioner would have been considerably enhanced had the author presented a fairer and less pessimistic appraisal of the role which surgery can play in the therapy of cancer of the lung. This might have been done had the author sought the collaboration of an experienced thoracic surgeon in preparing the chapter on surgery.

The book can be unhesitatingly recommended to those physicians who share the author's philosophy regarding cancer of the lung, which is well described in the introduction by J. Arthur Myers in the following words: "Although he recognizes that the only successful treatment of cancer of the lung today is surgical extirpation, the author, like many other workers in this field, has a deep conviction that further treatment of pulmonary cancer will be with drugs."

**MICROBIOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY—Fifth Edition.** Charles F. Carter, B.S., M.D., Director, Carter's Clinical Laboratory, Dallas; and Alice L. Smith, A.B., M.D., Assistant Professor of Pathology, Southwestern Medical College of the University of Texas. The C. V. Mosby Co., 1953. 847 pages, 260 illustrations, \$5.50.

This fifth edition of a combined book on Microbiology and Pathology grew out of an earlier edition on "Bacteriology for Nurses" first printed in 1928. The first 463 pages of the total 810 pages of text cover admirably, in 35 chapters, fundamentals of bacteriology, parasitology and immunology in an exceptionally interesting manner. At the end of each chapter is printed a set of questions concerning the material covered. The content is completely up-to-date and includes a good description of the common antibiotics and an excellent description of the action of various chemicals used as disinfectants. Particularly useful and well done is the discussion of the practical methods of sterilization and disinfection as conducted by nurses and physicians in everyday hospital and office practice. Lucid discussion of immunological problems makes easy reading of a usually dull subject. Information concerning the morphology, cultural characteristics, manner of infection and control of disease caused by pathogenic bacteria, fungi and animal parasites is presented in a fashion so readable that your reviewer was loathe to lay down the book until he had finished this portion. Medical students, and physicians as well as nurses, can gain a mint of up-to-date information in these chapters. Excellent chapters cover viruses and Rickettsia and diseases caused by them. The final chapter of this well-written first part is a summary of the method of inoculation to prevent disease as recommended by the American Public Health Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The second part of the book is another attempt to present to nurses fundamentals of general and special systemic pathology. This portion compares favorably with other books on the market but fails somehow to have the authority of the first part of the volume. The illustrations are nearly all taken from other books. Many represent advanced lesions seldom seen in this day and age. On a whole, the material presented in an orthodox fashion is factual but occasionally one reads a statement which is not true—such as "Gallstones are of frequent occurrence in the feces." Most of the text, however, is quite satisfactory. A handy glossary of terms which takes up fully 28 pages concludes the book.

This well-printed book should serve satisfactorily as a very useful text for nurses and others studying microbiology or fundamentals of pathology.

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**BABIES NEED FATHERS TOO.** Rhoda Kellogg. Comet Press Books, 11 West 42nd St., New York 36, 1953. 256 pages, \$3.50.

Rhoda Kellogg states that she was prompted to write this book because every day she hears complaints from mothers of nursery school children that their husbands will not read any books on child psychology. Because it is her conviction that children from birth on need fathers who are as close